

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A clamp/alignment mechanism comprising:
 - a turntable on which a recording medium is mounted, the turntable being rotated by a rotation driving device;
 - a holding device for holding the recording medium mounted on the turntable;
 - an aligning device for aligning the recording medium mounted on the turntable;and
 - a driving device for driving both the holding device and the alignment device[[],];
 - wherein the driving device is configured to drive the aligning device in an aligning direction along which the recording medium is subjected to alignment thereof, ~~in cases where~~ when the holding device is driven by the driving device in a holding direction in which the recording medium is to be held; and
 - wherein the aligning device is made up of an elastic member having two ends, one end of which being fixedly engaged with the turntable, and the driving device is configured to push the other end of the elastic member in an alignment-releasing direction along which the recording medium is subjected to release from an aligned state.
2. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the holding device is configured to locate at a retreat position which disables the holding device ~~for holding~~ from holding the recording medium and the aligning device is configured to locate at a retreat position which disables the aligning device ~~for aligning~~

from aligning the recording medium,~~in cases where~~ when the recording medium is mounted onto the turntable.

Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice.

4. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein the driving device has a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the turntable on which the recording medium is mounted, the movable member being placed to push the other end of the elastic member in the alignment-releasing direction of the recording medium,~~in cases where~~ when the movable member is made to slide in a direction away from the plane of the turntable.

5. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the holding device is made up of a plurality of chuck claws mounted rotatably on the turntable, wherein the movable member is placed to push the plurality of chuck claws in the hold-releasing direction of the recording medium,~~in cases where~~ when the movable member is made to slide in the direction away from the plane of the turntable.

6. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the driving device includes a limiting device for limiting the holding device from being moved in the holding direction of the recording medium,~~in cases where~~ when the holding device is driven in a hold-releasing direction in which the recording medium is to be released from a held state.

7. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the holding device is made up of a plurality of chuck claws mounted rotatably on the turntable,

the driving device has a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the turntable on which the recording medium is mounted, and

the limiting device is configured to push the plurality of chuck claws in the hold-releasing direction of the recording medium, ~~in cases where~~ when the movable member is made to slide in a direction away from the plane of the turntable.

8. (currently amended) A clamp/alignment mechanism comprising:

a turntable on which a recording medium is mounted, the turntable being rotated by a rotation driving device;

a holding device for holding the recording medium mounted on the turntable;

an aligning device for aligning the recording medium mounted on the turntable;

and

a driving device for driving both the holding device and the alignment device [,.];

wherein the driving device is configured to drive the aligning device in an alignment-releasing direction along which the recording medium is subjected to release from an aligned state thereof, ~~in cases where~~ when the holding device is driven by the driving device in a hold-releasing direction in which the recording medium is to be released from a held state thereof; and

wherein the aligning device is made up of an elastic member having two ends, one end of which being fixedly engaged with the turntable, and the driving device is configured to push the other end of the elastic member in the alignment-releasing direction of the recording medium.

9. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the holding device is configured to locate at a retreat position which disables the holding device ~~for holding~~ from holding the recording medium and the aligning device is configured to locate at a retreat position which disables the aligning device ~~for aligning~~ from aligning the recording medium, ~~in cases where~~ when the recording medium is mounted onto the turntable.

Claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice.

11. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 8, wherein the driving device has a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the turntable on which the recording medium is mounted, the movable member being placed to push the other end of the elastic member in the alignment-releasing direction of the recording medium, ~~in cases where~~ wherein the movable member is made to slide in a direction away from the plane of the turntable.

12. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 11, wherein the holding device is made up of a plurality of chuck claws mounted rotatably on the turntable, wherein the movable member is placed to push the plurality of chuck claws in the hold-releasing direction of the recording medium, ~~in cases where~~ when the movable member is made to slide in the direction away from the plane of the turntable.

13. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the driving device includes a limiting device for limiting the holding device from being

moved in the holding direction of the recording medium, ~~in cases where~~ when the holding device is driven in the alignment-releasing direction of the recording medium.

14. (currently amended) The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the holding device is made up of a plurality of chuck claws mounted rotatably on the turntable, the driving device has a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the turntable on which the recording medium is mounted, and the limiting device is configured to push the plurality of chuck claws in the hold-releasing direction of the recording medium, ~~in cases where~~ when the movable member is made to slide in a direction away from the plane of the turntable.

15. (currently amended) An information reproducing and recording mechanism comprising a ~~clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 1~~ clamp/alignment mechanism comprising:

a turntable on which a recording medium is mounted, the turntable being rotated by a rotation driving device;

a holding device for holding the recording medium mounted on the turntable;

an aligning device for aligning the recording medium mounted on the turntable;

and

a driving device for driving both the holding device and the alignment device,

wherein the driving device is configured to drive the aligning device in an aligning direction along which the recording medium is subjected to alignment thereof, when the holding device is driven by the driving device in a holding direction in which the recording medium is to be held; and

wherein the aligning device is made up of an elastic member having two ends, one end of which being fixedly engaged with the turntable, and the driving device is configured to push the other end of the elastic member in an alignment-releasing direction along which the recording medium is subjected to release from an aligned state.

16. (currently amended) An information reproducing and recording mechanism comprising a ~~clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 8~~ clamp/alignment mechanism comprising:

a turntable on which a recording medium is mounted, the turntable being rotated by a rotation driving device;

a holding device for holding the recording medium mounted on the turntable;

an aligning device for aligning the recording medium mounted on the turntable;

and

a driving device for driving both the holding device and the alignment device;

wherein the driving device is configured to drive the aligning device in an alignment-releasing direction along which the recording medium is subjected to release from an aligned state thereof when the holding device is driven by the driving device in a hold-releasing direction in which the recording medium is to be released from a held state thereof; and

wherein the aligning device is made up of an elastic member having two ends, one end of which being fixedly engaged with the turntable, and the driving device is configured to push the other end of the elastic member in the alignment-releasing direction of the recording medium.

Claims 17 and 18 are cancelled without prejudice.